

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY: Poland

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1948

SUBJECT: PFR Policy Toward the Polish Church

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED:NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIRED:

25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

the reward one gets from parasites, who consume the Polish bread sit on fat parishes and without any scruples act as agents of the Vatican. Under cover of fighting for Christianity, the clergy of Poland is breaking the unity of the nation, undermining the authority of the People's State and trying to incite hatred toward the PFR. It is in our own interest to stop the poisoning of the hearts and minds of Polish youth with this Catholic nonsense. The Church often protests our treatment of our political opponents. But is the Church acting otherwise? Were not the Jesuits, politically motivated, the murderers of their own enemies and those of the Church? The essence of every science and religion is God and Eternity. Different religions define God in different ways. Religion and God are two different things. If a country bases its existence on the principle of sovereignty, it cannot live in agreement with the Church, because the Church forms a state within the state. The policy of the Church, its moral principles and the laws of the Church conflict with a People's state. The Church is a thing of the past; it needs far reaching changes to be able to remain in existence.

2. The religion of our times is the Marxist philosophy. In it the poor and injured are looking for hope and refuge from the might of this world; the mighty are blessed by the Pope and supported by Catholicism.
3. The Marxist philosophy has more staunch followers and self-sacrificing fighters than the Catholic religion. The martyrs of our times are the followers of Marx. Do we see today any priests or Catholics willing to die collectively in defense of the principles they preach? No! This means that Catholicism has ceased to be a living religion; it has ceased to educate, to create new values. In contrast look at the sea of blood shed by the Marxists in Greece, in Spain, or in the fight against Hitler in the U.S.R., Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.
4. A true religion should see God in the human being, in his happiness, family life, social relations and national endeavors. The highest idea of God was developed by the Jews, who are the most coherent and united nation on earth.

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION											
ARMY	<input type="checkbox"/> AIR													

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

5. Christianity was created by a Jew, just as Marxism, but it has been distorted by the Popes, the successors of the Roman Emperors.
6. The Church is the seed of obscurantism. Whenever a Catholic tries to go beyond the well-trod channels of dogmatic thinking and endeavors to find a truth different from that preached by the priests, he is proclaimed a heretic. Modern times and the future bring different truths and doctrines. Humanity no longer tends to believe blindly. The human brain is searching for new laws and dogmas. The atom has been split; a further search is under way. The Churches, which are trying to enslave human thought, must fall, just as many other religious systems, less well organized, have fallen. The voice of the people has been and always shall be the Voice of God.
7. The voice of the people has for centuries been a voice of revolt and despair; the Church has never listened to it. At last, we the Marxists heard it! The will of the people has become our own will and we believe that it is also the will of God. The Vatican means everything to the clergy; the State can be an instrument only. The Church fears the new Polish People's Democracy. Today's representatives of the Church have nothing in common with Christ, who worked among the people and for the people. A clear-cut question should be asked: "What is more important? An abstract idea of God, or a definite idea, such as the Nation?" For Marxists the choice is easy and clear.
8. For a Church theoretician naturally God will be put above the Nation. That is the so-called theocratic system, very convenient for members of the Church, but very selfish and misleading. We Marxists believe that one who has no sympathy for the people with whom he associates and who support him cannot have a real feeling for God. Care of the poor used to be one of the basic principles of the Christian religion. "Whatever you do for one of my poorest in my name, you will do for me", said Our Lord and the Holy Scripture, one of the most intelligent books ever written.
9. We Marxists are putting the State and the Nation above the Church. We are deeply convinced that, while serving our People's Democracy and the poorest people of our Nation, we are not acting against the will of God, although we do act against the desires of the Vatican and of the Clergy of Poland. We do not consider ourselves fighting against God when we try to abolish the Church administration, which is officially and illegally trying to undermine the foundations of the Polish State.
10. Today the Polish Nation follows the pattern of its historical past, by determining its own life, both in the spiritual and materialistic sphere, by trying to attain a better position in the world.
11. This march toward a better future is being hampered by reactionary forces, linked to the past and headed by the Catholic Church, which fears that it will lose its golden treasures and the masses of followers from among the working and the peasant classes.
12. No wonder that the simple man, who sees the Church's false and hostile attitude toward him and knows that his desires and wishes will not be heard, is getting farther and farther away from the Church. The mass of the faithful is composed of lay people, whose obedience is based on ignorance. These lay people are today quite different than they were before World War II. They are free, more enlightened and willing to progress. They will not let themselves be blindly led by the Church.
13. There are many people in Poland who, although Catholic, feel a great animosity toward the Catholic Clergy and could easily be led in the fight against the Church. Most of the Catholics do not live up to the principles of the Church. Their Catholicism is limited to the acceptance of the Last Sacrament just before they are ready to die. Catholicism is more and more becoming a dead form, instead of a living doctrine.
14. In spite of all these factors, which we consider favorable for our cause, the Catholic religion is still a vital force. It has been part of the Nation much too long. Its roots are deep. It is tied to the history, the cultural background, the family and social life of every individual. We must remember this.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

-3-

15. We must remember that the Polish nation is awakening to a new life which will be free from ignorance and old superstitions. This new day demands a new definition of the attitude of the PPR toward the Church and religion. We must find ways and means to help the Polish Nation shake off the bonds of the Catholic faith. We must teach them to worship their own State. We, disciples of Marx, are well aware of the lessons of history and will not make the same mistakes. We shall choose a new and effective way. The people must be enlightened, and the new generation must be given the right faith. Then the people will see and choose what is best for them. We are not afraid of the Church. We are going to fight it! The fight must be intelligent, effective and consistent. It must be based on strong criticism of the many weak spots in the Church and the Clergy.
16. The adversary is still too strong; the time for a general offensive has not yet come. Our fight with the Church must be carefully mapped to divide it from the inside, to separate it from the Nation. Our plan for next year is: To disorganize it, split it, ridicule it and make its work difficult. We must discover any priests among the Clergy who will put the Nation's welfare above their own careers and a blind adhesion to the Vatican. The Clergy should be made to understand that they have to make a choice: they may either stick to the Vatican, be cut off from the people and become enemies of the State, or they may go with the people and sever their relations with the Vatican.

-end-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~